United Nations A/63/352

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 September 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Items 7 and 124 of the provisional agenda*

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: reports of the General Committee

Pattern of conferences

Letter dated 8 September 2008 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences to the President of the General Assembly

I am writing to you in relation to the provisions of paragraph 7 of section I of General Assembly resolution 40/243, according to which no subsidiary organ of the Assembly may meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly. Subsidiary organs wishing to meet during a regular session of the Assembly must submit their requests through the Committee on Conferences.

I wish to inform you that the Committee on Conferences has received requests from the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the Disarmament Commission, the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, the Executive Board of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to meet in New York during the main part of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly.

The Committee on Conferences, having carefully considered those requests and the reasons for them, does not object, on the strict understanding that such meetings would have to be accommodated within available facilities and services, so that the activities of the General Assembly itself are not adversely affected. The chairpersons of those bodies will also be informed of the statistics relating to their utilization of conference services in the past. If the benchmark figure of 80 per cent was not reached in the previous year, the Committee will express its concern and make proposals for improvement.

* A/63/150 and Corr.1.

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Accordingly, I should be grateful if the General Assembly would explicitly authorize the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA, the Disarmament Commission, the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, the Executive Board of INSTRAW and the Executive Board of UNICEF to meet in accordance with their requests, subject to the conditions referred to in the foregoing paragraph.

(*Signed*) Patrick A. **Chuasoto**
Chairman
Committee on Conferences